

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**INTERNET TOWN MEETING ON AMERICA'S  
COASTAL FUTURE**

A National partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and associations (known as the National Dialogue Partners) have joined together to launch an internet-based national town meeting to stimulate discussions on the future of America's coasts. The town meeting will debut on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 in San Diego, CA at Coastal Zone '99—a biannual world conference for people involved in managing and protecting coastal resources.

The internet-based forum will allow interested people from all regions and backgrounds to share their views and vision on the future of America's coasts and oceans. The National Dialogue Partners are committed to making a difference individually and collectively in finding a balance between a viable economy and a healthy environment. The internet town meeting provides an opportunity to gain insight on critical coastal issues and the results will help chart the coastal management course over the next twenty-five years. The town meeting can lead to shared visions and goals, and help us all become more effective coastal stewards.

Following its debut, the National Town Meeting Web site will remain accessible for several months to ensure maximum participation. The partners will then publish a report based on the discussions in the town meeting. The partners include: American Association of Port Authorities; Boat Owners Association of the United States; Center for Marine Conservation; The Coastal Society; Coastal States Organization; Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations; National Fisheries Institute; National Ocean Service / NOAA; National Ocean Industries Association.

The town meeting site is located at: <http://coast2025.nos.noaa.gov>.